

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SY-05 USSS-00 SAB-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-01 EB-07

TRSE-00 IO-10 /089 W

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P R 111405Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9981

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 6063

E.O.11652:NA

TAGS: PFOR, GR, CY

SUBJECT: ATHENS WEEKEND PRESS ON ASSASSINATION PLOT
AGAINST MAKARIOS

1. AUGUST 9-10 ATHENS PRESS AFFORDED WIDE COVERAGE TO ALLEGATIONS OF DISCOVERY OF NEW ASSASSINATION PLOT AGAINST PRESIDENT MAKARIOS. ON SATURDAY, AKROPOLIS (CONSERVATIVE) GAVE STRONG TREATMENT TO STORY WITH HEADLINE "NEW PLOT AIMED AT MAKARIOS' EXTERMINATION; ITS PURPOSE IS TO CAUSE CONFUSION AND THUS PROMOTE A PLAN FOR A CYPRUS SOLUTION". TO VIMA (LIBERAL-OPPOSITION) SUGGESTED IN ITS LEAD-IN THAT "PROSPECTIVE ASSASSINS ARE MOVING FROM OUTSIDE CYPRUS". AS MIGHT BE PREDICTABLE, ATHINAIKI (PAPANDREOU PAPER) SUGGESTED "CIA PLANNED ASSASSINATION OF MAKARIOS - EXTRAORDINARY SECURITY MEASURES IN NICOSIA". TA NEA (LIBERAL OPPOSITION) REPORTED "NEW PLOT AGAINST MAKARIOS: GREEKS AND FOREIGNERS ARE INVOLVED".

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2. SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, PRESS FOCUSED PARTICULARLY ON

CLERIDES' STATEMENT FROM NICOSIA RELEVANT TO THE PLOT INCLUDING ASSERTION THAT CARAMANLIS HAD BEEN BRIEFED ON IT. REPRESENTATIVE HEADLINES FOLLOW: KATHIMERINI (CONSERVATIVE) "PLAN AGAINST MAKARIOS' LIFE DISCOVERED FROM ATHENS: CARAMANLIS HAD BEEN BRIEFED"; TO VIMA (LIBERAL-OPPOSITION) "CLERIDES HAS INFORMED CARAMANLIS OF PLAN WHICH 'UNREPENTENT ONES' HAVE DEVELOPED FOR MAKARIOS' ASSASSINATION: THEY ARE BEING WATCHED IN ATHENS AND IN NICOSIA"; RIZOSPASTICS (COMMUNIST-EXTERIOR) "CLERIDES REVEALS NEW PLAN FOR MAKARIOS ASSASSINATION: CIA AND JUNTA BEHIND THE PLOT"; AVGHI (COMMUNIST-INTERIOR) "THERE IS ORGANIZED PLAN FOR ASSASSINATION OF MAKARIOS: GREEKS IN ATHENS ARE PARTICIPATING: MR. CARAMANLIS HAS BEEN BRIEFED".

3. SUNDAY PRESS TREATMENT THIS STORY VERY EXTENSIVE, AS CAN BE SEEN FROM FACT THAT BOTH KATHIMERINI AND TO VIMA DEVOTED PRIME FRONT PAGE SPACE TO STORY WITH THE LATTER PAPER GIVING IT SIX-COLUMN WIDTH. AKROPOLIS PRINTED STORY ON BACK PAGE - BUT FIVE COLUMNS WIDE - RIZOSPASTIS FRONT-PAGED IT IN TWO COLUMNS. AVGHI IN ITS SUNDAY COVERAGE ALSO PRINTED EDITORIAL ON THEME, SUGGESTING INTER ALIA THAT BEHIND NEW PLOT THERE ARE FOUND BOTH JUNTA AND GRIVAS ELEMENTS. ON MORE SINISTER NOTE, AVGHI POINTS OUT THAT THERE ARE CURRENTLY GREAT PRESSURES BEING EXERCISED ON GREECE FOR MORE CONCESSIONS IN ORDER TO SATISFY ANKARA - AND ACCORDINGLY IT WOULD BE EASIER TO FIND A SOLUTION (ESPECIALLY AS TO RESUMING U.S. MILITARY AID TO TURKEY) IF MAKARIOS FACTOR SHOULD BE ELIMINATED.
KUBISCH

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